

REMARKS

In this Response, claims 1-10 and 12-16 have been amended; claim 11 has been canceled, without prejudice; and claims 25-29 have been added. Support for these amendments and added claims is found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-10, 12-16, and 25-29 are pending.

Examiner Interview

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Warren for courtesies extended through interview of September 22, 2011. In the interview the undersigned discussed how claim 1 differed from the teachings of Tserng and Chau. The Examiner suggested that various clarifications be made in the claims and subsequently reviewed claim amendments proposed by the undersigned. The Examiner agreed that claim 1, with the proposed amendments, better recited the distinctive features that were discussed in the interview. Claim amendments similar to those proposed are presented in this paper.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tserng (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,358) (hereinafter "Tserng") in view of Chau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,496) (hereinafter "Chau"). These rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part, that "the portion the perimeter of the base mesa region that is occupied by the outer periphery of the emitter region surrounds the base contact region on a plurality of sides." Tserng and Chau fail to teach or otherwise suggest such a recitation.

As discussed in the interview, Tserng teaches, at best, that linear base fingers 124 are disposed on both sides of emitter finger 126. The undersigned cannot find any teachings of Tserng that would suggest the portion of the base mesa region that is occupied by the outer periphery of the emitter region surrounds the base contact region on a plurality of sides.

As also discussed in the interview, Chau teaches, at best, that linear base contact fingers 1212 are disposed on either side of a collector contact 1216. In Chau, the emitter contact 1106 is disposed on the backside of the substrate. Similar to Tserng, the undersigned cannot find any

teachings of Chau that would suggest the portion of the base mesa region's that is occupied by the outer periphery of the emitter region surrounds the base contact region on a plurality of sides.

For at least these reasons, the undersigned respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over these references.

Claims 2-10 and 12-16 depend from, or include recitations similar to, claim 1. Therefore these claims are patentable over these references for at least similar reasons.

New Claims

The undersigned has taken this opportunity to present new claims 25-29. Each of these claims depends from independent claim 1 or 8. Therefore, these claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons given above. These claims also include additional points of patentability. For example, claim 25 recites that "the inner periphery of the emitter region is adjacent to three sides of individual base fingers that extend from the spine." This recitation further distinguishes this claim from the cited art.

Conclusion

The undersigned respectfully submits that the above claims present patentable subject matter and therefore request early issuance of Notice of Allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Should there be any lingering questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (503) 796-2972 to have the questions resolved to allow the subject application to expeditiously pass to issuance.

Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C.

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Pacwest Center, Suite 1900
1211 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

/Nathan R. Maki/

Nathan R. Maki
Reg. No. 51,110